

## **PSA Advocacy Policy**

The Political Studies Association of the UK (PSA) is a UK charity which aims '*to promote the development of political studies and to encourage education and the advancement of learning in the art and science of government and in other branches of the political sciences.*'

As a UK Charity, the PSA is governed by the Charity Commission and must comply with key legal requirements and with Charity Commission guidance when it comes to advocacy and lobbying. Specifically, there is a legal requirement on charities to ensure that any advocacy or lobbying must only be undertaken in the context of supporting the delivery of its charitable aims.

PSA Trustees are often approached with requests to campaign for or lobby on a range of issues of potential interest to members. Trustees must ensure that any advocacy or political lobbying is only undertaken in the context of supporting the delivery of the PSA's charitable purposes. Trustees must ensure that the charity is not used for the expression of the political views (whether personal or party political) of any individual trustee or staff member. Trustees must also consider the impact of any advocacy on the charity's reputation, ensuring that the charity's independence is maintained. For more information on what is permitted by the Charity Commission, see [Political activity and campaigning by charities](#).

In line with the PSA's charitable aims, the PSA can and will advocate on matters of policy that directly impact upon the development of Political Studies and education and learning in this field. The PSA regularly makes representations in relation to government policy on, for example, the Research Excellence Framework, the Teaching Excellence Framework, and on the provision of Politics as a subject in Secondary Education. The PSA seeks to ensure that the importance of Political Studies within Higher and Secondary education is well-articulated and promoted, and in so doing engages with wider campaigning and advocacy, including in partnership with other national organisations that represent the social sciences, (e.g., The Academy of Social Sciences and the British Academy), as well as undertaking advocacy in situations where Political Scientists and other Politics academics might face serious threats to their safety in pursuit of their profession and where academic freedom and the provision of Political Studies is under threat.

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